

VISIT...

LANZAROTE  
*Caliente*.COM



SEPT.  
NO. 205

12¢

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE

CA  
AUTHORITY



# BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

## "BLIND AS A...BAT?"

STORY BY FRANK ROBBINS; ART BY IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA

A BLIND MAN  
FOUND MURDERED...  
A CRYPTIC... ALMOST  
UNBELIEVABLE  
MESSAGE  
SCRATCHED  
ON A WALL  
BY THE DYING  
MAN'S CANE...

COMMISSIONER GORDON...  
THEY FOUND OUT  
I'M BATMAN!

I AM  
BLIND

AND DESPITE THE REAL  
BATMAN'S PROOF THAT THE  
DYING MAN'S HAND WAS  
GUIDED BY THE KILLER...  
HE IS "HELD ON SUSPICION"  
BY COMMISSIONER  
GORDON... CHARGED  
WITH BEING  
HIS OWN  
IMPOSTOR!

HELPLESS, THE MASKED MAN-  
HUNTER EMPLOYS A RUSE TO  
ENABLE ROBIN TO ESCAPE IN  
AN ATTEMPT TO TRACK DOWN  
THE "KILLER"... AT THE SAME  
TIME PALMING A TINY OBJECT  
FOUND IN THE DEAD MAN'S EAR!

OPERATION... THIS IS NOT A  
BLINDFOLD... HEARING  
TO SCHEMER! AID! IT'S A  
ROBIN'S ESCAPED! FIXED-  
FREQUENCY  
RECEIVER...  
AND... ROBIN'S  
IN MORTAL  
DANGER!

GET HIM...  
DEAD OR  
ALIVE!

INDEED HE IS! AS ONE OF THE EVIL  
SCHEMERS "BLIND" SPOTTERS  
STAKED-OUT AROUND GOTHAM  
CITY FIRES A MINI-MISSILE AT  
THE BOY WONDER!...

WE'RE UNDER  
ATTACK! BUT...  
WE HAVEN'T  
EVEN PICKED  
UP THE GOLD  
YET!

AN' BOTH THE  
BANK... AND  
OUR ROUTE  
HAVE BEEN  
KEPT TOP  
SECRET! TAKE  
EVASIVE...  
FULL SPEED!





AND SECONDS LATER, TO AVOID HITTING THE ARMORED TRUCK, COMMISSIONER GORDON'S CAR HITS A LAMPPOST... AND BATMAN TUMBLES OUT!



ESCAPING, BATMAN IS STUNNED IN A COLLISION WITH ONE OF THE SCHEMER'S MEN, AS THE "MAN WITH THE COMPUTER-BRAIN" RECEIVES A REPORT FROM ONE OF HIS SPOTTERS...

"OBJECTIVE" TRUCK SPEEDING TOWARD GRID-AREA 11...

THEN THEIR TARGET IS... THE FIRST FEDERAL BANK! CALL IN ALL STAKE-OUTS... CONVERGE ON TARGET USING OPERATIONAL PLAN "A"! AT THE SAME TIME...

WHILE IN A DANK ALLEY, BATMAN'S HEAD QUICKLY CLEARS AS THE GRIM ORDERS COME THROUGH...

... YOU CAN POLISH OFF ROBIN!

AS SOON AS I POLISH OFF NUMBER ONE-- BATMAN! HAW! HAW!

IN AN INSTINCTIVE PROTECTIVE GESTURE, THE CAPED CRUSADER THROWS HIS HANDCUFFED HANDS UP IN FRONT OF HIMSELF... AT THE SAME TIME KICKING UPWARD AND...

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH "POLISH" JOKES TO DATE! BUT THANKS FOR SHINING UP MY BRACELETS!

JEWELRY LIKE THIS ISN'T WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

AND WHEN YOU PLAY BALL WITH ME... ONE STRIKE AT BAT... AND YOU'RE OUT!



BUT NO SOONER DOES THE COWLED CRIME-FIGHTER ELIMINATE ONE OPPONENT, THAN...

THERE HE IS... COMMISSIONER GORDON! AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STEPS...!

OH... NO! I'D FORGOTTEN... I'M STILL A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE! AND I MUSTN'T BE RECAPTURED-- NOW!



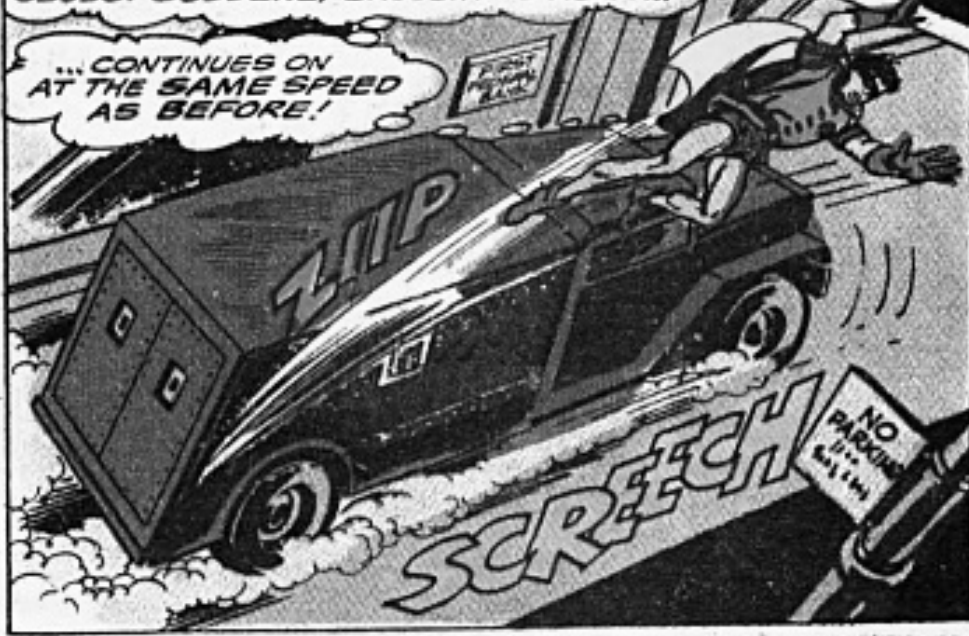
AND AS HIS ARMED PURSUERS CLOSE IN...

ROBIN'S LIFE MAY DEPEND ON MY STAYING... AT LIBERTY! WAIT! THERE IS A WAY!

AT THAT MOMENT, ROBIN'S LIFE IS VERY MUCH IN NEED OF SAVING, AS THE CAREENING ARMORED TRUCK SLEWS TO A PANIC-STOP AT THE FIRST FEDERAL BANK!

ABOUT TO BECOME VICTIM... OF IMMUTABLE LAW OF PHYSICS... THAT AN OBJECT DETACHED FROM MOVING OBJECT SUDDENLY BROUGHT TO REST...

... CONTINUES ON AT THE SAME SPEED AS BEFORE!



UNLESS... SPEED IS ABSORBED BY AN OBJECT IMPARTING PROGRESSIVE DECELERATION TO THE SPEEDING OBJECT!





IRONIC... I SHOULD BE  
SAVED BY THE SAME  
CHARACTERS THAT ARE  
TRYING TO DESTROY ME!

NOW TO FIND A  
GOOD HIDDEN  
VANTAGE POINT...  
WHERE I CAN  
SEE WHAT'S  
GOING ON AT  
THE BANK!

THEY'RE LOADING  
THE ARMORED  
CAR WITH...  
GOLD  
INGOTS!  
MILLIONS  
OF DOLLARS  
WORTH!

HURRY IT UP! SOMEONE  
TOOK A POT-SHOT AT US  
COMING HERE...! MIGHT  
BE SHEER ACCIDENT,  
BUT I'M EDGY!

AN  
EDGINESS  
THAT IS QUITE  
JUSTIFIED, AS FROM  
ALL CORNERS OF GOTHAM  
CITY AN ARMY OF THE  
SCHEMER'S BLIND-SPOTTERS  
CONVERGES ON THE BANK SQUARE!...



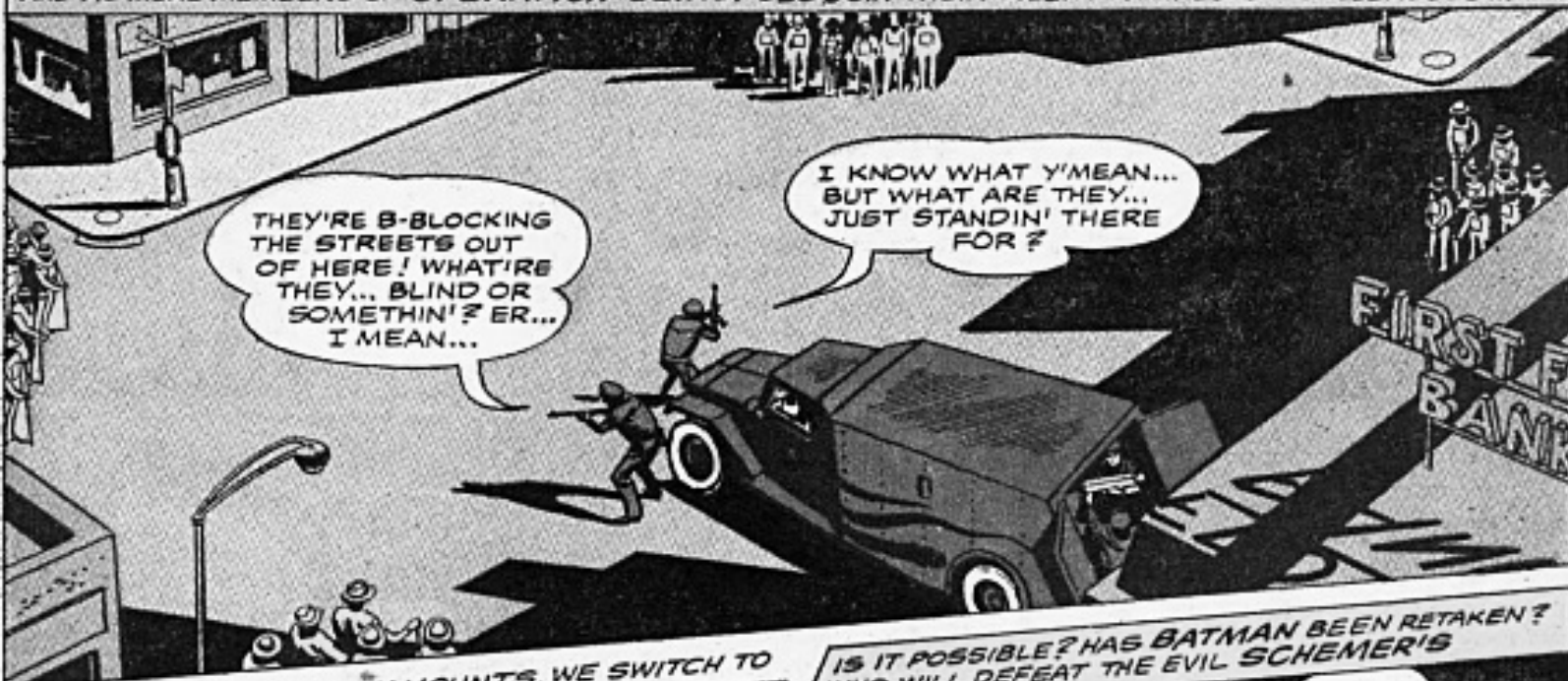
ALARMED BY THE SUDDEN MENACE  
OF DISTANT CANES TAPPING... COMING  
CLOSER... AND CLOSER... THE BOY  
WONDER TAKES COVER JUST IN  
TIME!...

THE CRESCENDO OF APPROACHING TAPS... SUDDENLY  
STOPS! EQUALLY ALARMED, THE GUARDS STARE...

LIKE THEY  
CAME OUT OF  
NOWHERE!  
W-WHAT ARE  
THOSE BLIND  
MEN STARING  
AT?



AND AS MORE MEMBERS OF OPERATION-BLINDFOLD JOIN THEIR SILENTLY LINED-UP COLLEAGUES...



THEY'RE B-BLOCKING THE STREETS OUT OF HERE! WHAT'RE THEY... BLIND OR SOMETHIN'? ER... I MEAN...

I KNOW WHAT Y'MEAN... BUT WHAT ARE THEY... JUST STANDIN' THERE FOR?

AND WHILE THIS TENSION MOUNTS, WE SWITCH TO ANOTHER TENSE SITUATION, AS

COMMISSIONER GORDON! WE'VE GOT HIM... BATMAN!

IS IT POSSIBLE? HAS BATMAN BEEN RETAKEN? WHO WILL DEFEAT THE EVIL SCHEMER'S PLANS NOW?

THAT'S THE 'IMPOSTOR', ALL RIGHT! WHO CLOUTED HIM?

HE DID...



B-BATMAN...? I-I DIDN'T KNOW--

OF COURSE, YOU POOR MAN... YOU CAN'T SEE!

H-HE RAN INTO ME... THOUGHT I WAS BEING ASSAULTED-- S-SO I... SWUNG! B-BUT... YOU SAID -- IMPOSTOR!



AND A PRETTY LOW ONE, TOO... ATTACKING A BLIND MAN! WE'LL THROW THE BOOK AT HIM!

WHAT GOES ON HERE? HOW DID THE SCHEMER'S "BLIND" MAN REGAIN THE UPPER HAND OVER THE CAPED CRUSADER?



AND AS  
THE POLICE  
DRAG THE  
UNRESISTING  
BATMAN  
AWAY...

UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S NO REWARD  
OUT FOR THIS... DISGUSTING  
CREATURE! BUT, PLEASE  
ACCEPT MY PERSONAL  
GRATITUDE!

YOU REALLY  
SHOULDN'T,  
KIND SIR!  
I JUST DID  
MY DUTY AS  
A GOTHAM  
CITIZEN!

I AM  
BLIND

BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY OUT OF... SIGHT?

THAT QUICK-CHANGE WAS WORTH  
THE COST OF ONE BATMAN  
OUTFIT! AT LEAST I'VE DELIVERED  
ONE OF THE SCHEMER'S MEN  
INTO POLICE HANDS...

NOW TO SAVE  
ROBIN... AND  
ROUND UP THE  
OTHERS! STRANGE  
GLASSES... THESE!  
WONDERED HOW  
THOSE PHONEY  
BLIND MEN  
COULD SEE  
THROUGH THEM...

BEFORE, I  
COULD MAKE OUT DIMLY-  
LIT OBJECTS QUITE  
PLAINLY... BUT NOW...  
LOOKING DIRECTLY  
INTO A BLINDING  
MERCURY ARC  
VAPOR LAMP...

IT'S JUST A DULL GLOW!  
WHICH MEANS... THESE LENSES  
ARE MADE OF AUTOMATICALLY-  
ADJUSTING PHOTO-SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL! \*

\* HIGH-SENSITIVE LENSES THAT  
GET DARKER WHEN EXPOSED  
TO BRIGHTER LIGHT-SOURCES!

WHILE BACK IN  
THE BANK SQUARE... AS  
THE LAST OF THE GOLD-  
BULLION IS LOADED  
ABOARD THE ARMORED  
TRUCK...

SO THAT WAS  
WHAT THE BLIND  
MEN WERE  
WAITING FOR...  
A 'COPTER!

QUICK, JOE...  
LOCK UP THE  
BACK! I'LL  
START THE  
MOTOR!

CHUCKA-  
CHUCKA-  
CHUCKA

CONTINUED ON 252 PAGE FOLLOWING.



AT THE SOUND OF THE CHOPPER, ROBIN CASTS ALL CAUTION TO THE WINDS, AS...

ARE THEY GONNA...  
BOMB... THE BANK-TRUCK?  
GOTTA STOP 'EM...  
SOMEHOW...

R-ROBIN?



FIRED WITH RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION, THE BOY WONDER COMES OUT OF COVER, JUST AS...

NO, NO-- ROBIN!  
HOLD IT...

NO  
BLIND BAT...  
HOLDS... ME!



LIKE AN ALL-AMERICAN, ROBIN LINE-BACKS HIS WAY THROUGH A WALL OF LIVING FLESH...

GOTTA GIVE THOSE  
BANK-GUARDS...  
A HAND!



S'UHNN!  
THERE ARE  
APT PUPILS...  
AND APT PUPILS!

BUT JUST AS HE PLUNGES THROUGH...  
THE SCHEMER'S 'COPTER DROPS ITS  
SECRET WEAPON... A BLINDING  
SUPER-MAGNESIUM FLARE!



AND AS THE LONG-PERSISTENCE FLARE SLOWLY DRIFTS DOWN... THE GUARDS ARE STOPPED SHORT IN THEIR TRACKS-- **BLINDED!**

I--I'M BLIND!  
CAN'T SEE!

N-NEITHER  
CAN I...

AND ALSO CAUGHT POINT-BLANK  
BY THE SUPER-BRILLIANT FLASH,  
THE BOY WONDER REELS AROUND...  
**UNSEEING!**

POOR ROBIN...  
SO THAT'S THE  
SECRET OF THIS  
WHOLE "BLIND-  
FOLD" OPERATION...

"BLIND MAN" BRUCE CAN  
STILL SEE? HOW IS IT  
POSSIBLE...?

THE GLASSES!  
THE PHOTO-SENSITIVE  
LENSES AUTOMATICALLY  
ADJUST TO SHIELD US  
FROM THE INTENSE GLARE!  
WHILE UNGUARDED EYES...

BUT HOW CAN  
I DEFEAT THIS  
DIABOLIC MOB...?

SUDDENLY,  
BRUCE'S  
WHIRLING THOUGHTS  
CATALYZE... AND A  
DARING PLAN FORMS IN  
HIS MASTER MIND! THEN,  
PUTTING THOUGHTS INTO ACTION...

I WANT TWO  
GIANT STEPS LEAD  
TO THAT ARMORED  
TRUCK!... LET'S PLAY...  
"JOHNNY ON THE PONY!"

I AM  
BLIND

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

8



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO ATTEND THE WEDDING  
OF LOIS LANE AND SUPERMAN  
IN THE GIANT LOIS LANE ISSUE  
ON SALE JULY 11th,  
AT YOUR NEWSDEALER!

**DC** 80 pg. **GIANT** G51 *All-Wedding Issue* APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY **OCT.** NO. 86

**LOIS LANE**

25¢ *Featuring LOIS' SCHEMES AND DREAMS TO MARRY SUPERMAN!*



*JUST MARRIED*

*SHE WEDS HIM IN HIS CLARK KENT IDENTITY!*

*SHE ADOPTS A SECRET IDENTITY OF HER OWN!*

*SHE EVEN MAKES A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!*





AND THEN THE BLINDING FLARE DROPS INTO THE FLOODED SQUARE... FIZZLES... AND DIES! BATMAN BROADCASTS A MESSAGE VIA HIS TRANSMITTER—CAME TO THE HOVERING 'COPTER...

YOUR WHOLE OPERATION'S A FIZZLE, SCHEMER... JUST LIKE THAT DEAD "BLUNDER"! SO KNOCK IT OFF... WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD!

PHZZT

WHILE ABOVE... [CORRECTION... BATMAN!]

PHASE 1 OF THE GAME IS YOURS...! BUT NOW WE ENTER PHASE 2! RIGHT, BRAIN DRAIN?

WHOO-HOO!  
HOOT!  
HOOT!

QUICKLY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE BACKS THE TRUCK AROUND TO THE GUARDS...

CAN YOU SEE WELL ENOUGH TO DRIVE?

VISION'S KINDA... SPOTTY, BUT--

THEN...  
HOP IN!

LEAPING OFF, BRUCE TURNS THE TRUCK OVER TO THE GUARDS... AND... BUTTONED-UP IT ROARS AWAY TOWARD THE AIRPORT...

SCHEMER TO OPERATION--BLINDFOLD... PLAN A--ABORTED! SWITCH TO PLAN B! STEP 1... PICK UP ROBIN!

WHAT NEW EVIL HAS THE SCHEMER AND HIS MALEVOLENT COHORTS HATCHED? HIS FIRST SCHEME LAID ONE BIG OWL EGG! WHAT NOW?

?

AS BRUCE TRIES TO SPEED TO ROBIN'S RESCUE, HIS PROGRESS IS IMPEDED BY THE STILL-RUSHING WATER...



CAN'T LET SCHEMER'S MALICIOUS ORDER BE CARRIED OUT! GOTTA HELP... THAT POOR, HALF-BLINDED... KID...

WHILE AT A DISTANCE THAT COULD BE OCEANS AWAY... THE OVERWHELMED, BUT FIERCELY BATTLING BOY WONDER PUTS UP A DETERMINED... BUT FUTILE... STRUGGLE!...



CAN'T SEE MUCH, BUT... ENOUGH TO COUNTER-PUNCH YOU BLIND BULLIES!



HIS COURAGE MORE THAN HIS STRENGTH CAN MATCH, THE TEEN TITAN IS LIFTED AWAY... A LOSER TO STACKED ODDS! WHAT GRIM ROLE HAS HE BEEN SELECTED TO PLAY IN THE SCHEMER'S FOUL PLAN B? AFTER A SHORT SPONSOR-SELECTED INTERMISSION... WE SHALL SEE... ON THE NEXT PAGE!

11

JULY, 1968

## No Chicken Kamikaze

You've never heard of a chicken Kamikaze pilot. In fact, he had no chance for "change of mind." Once he was airborne, he was committed. He was locked into his plane so he couldn't bail out. Triggered bombs were bolted to his wings so he couldn't land without blowing up. So why not be a hero in your Zero? The newest Revell model is a realistic reproduction of the famous Kamikaze from Japan... the infamous Zero. Build it, and you can recreate history as you create a model. Only \$2.00.

There are 250 Revell models, ranging from 60c to \$15.00. For a complete catalog, send 25c to: Revell, Inc., 4258 Glencoe Avenue, Venice, California 90291.



Model of the Month





# "BLIND AS A... BAT?!" PART 2

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN RESPONSE TO BRUCE'S URGENT PHONE CALL...

AND, AS SUDDENLY AND SILENTLY AS THEY CAME... THE MEMBERS OF OPERATION-BLINDFOLD HAVE FADED AWAY... LEAVING A FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE ALONE IN THE FLOODED SQUARE...

OH MY, MASTER WAYNE... YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH PADDLING ABOUT IN THAT PUDDLE! COME UP AT ONCE, SIR... I HAVE A FRESH CHANGE OF CLOTHING WAITING!

GOOD OLD ALFRED... MY FAITHFUL BUTLER... AND MOTHER-HEN!

GLAD YOU HAD MY OTHER BATMAN OUTFIT LAID OUT... GAVE MINE TO A "BLIND" MAN!

...AND WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR YOUNG MASTER DICK? YOUR CALL WAS SO BRIEF... WH-WHERE IS HE NOW?

SCUTTLED BY THE SCHEMER, ALFRED! PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE AIRPORT NOW FOR ANOTHER STAB AT THE GOLD-BULLION SHIPMENT!

CAN'T HELP ROBIN THIS WAY! NEED BIG HELP IN A HURRY!

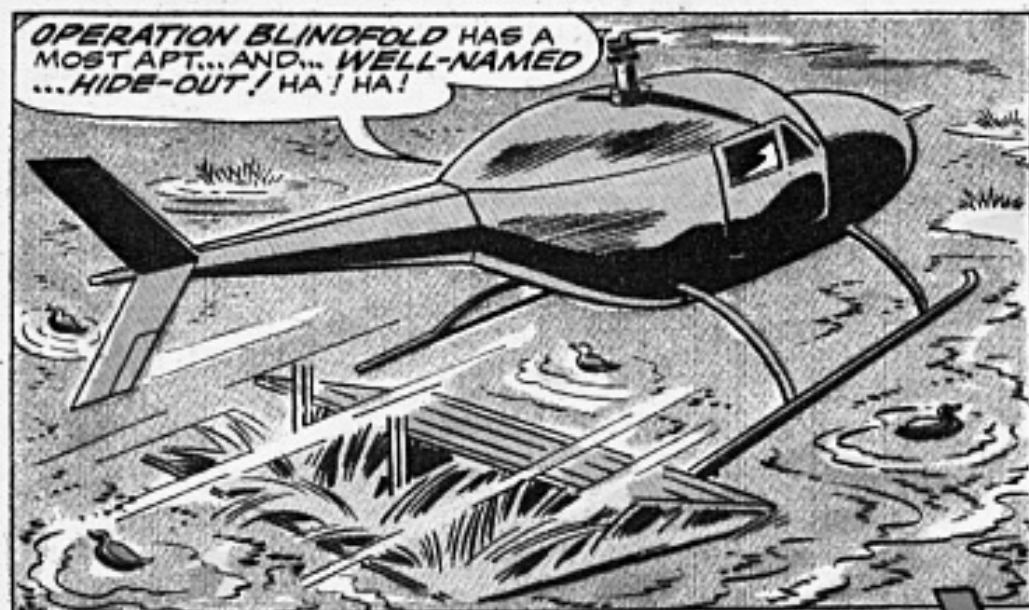
WHILE APPROACHING THE MARSHES BORDERING GOTHAM CITY BAY... SITE OF GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

SOON, YOUNG ROBIN... YOU WILL SEE THE WIZARDRY OF THE SCHEMER'S WILY WITS... IN ACTION!

AND, AS DAWN BREAKS...



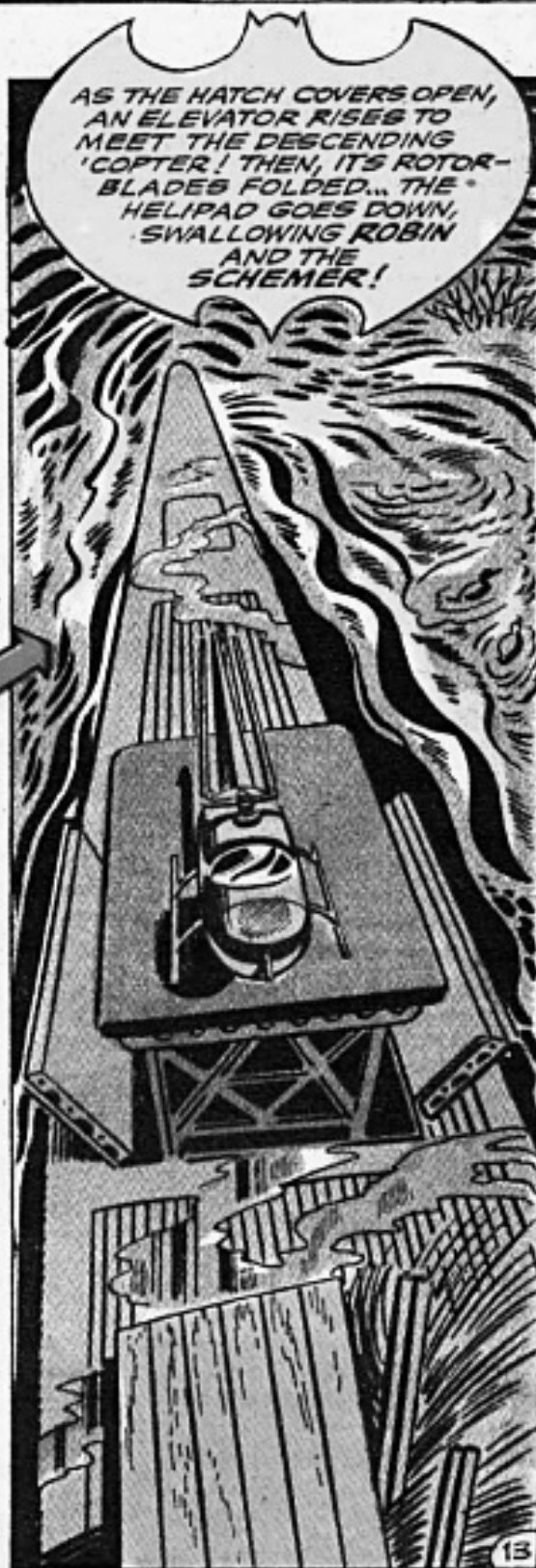
OPERATION BLINDFOLD HAS A MOST APT... AND... WELL-NAMED... HIDE-OUT! HA! HA!



AND, ON A TRANSMITTED SIGNAL FROM THE SCHEMER'S 'COPTER... THE "DUCK BLIND" SUDDENLY RISES! DISCLOSING...



AS THE HATCH COVERS OPEN, AN ELEVATOR RISES TO MEET THE DESCENDING 'COPTER! THEN, ITS ROTOR-BLADES FOLDED... THE HELIPAD GOES DOWN, SWALLOWING ROBIN AND THE SCHEMER!





SUBMERGED, ROBIN'S UNDERWATER PRISON ONCE MORE GREET'S THE CASUAL EYE AS A PEACEFUL, SYLVAN, HUNTER'S RETREAT...

AND NOW, I SUPPOSE, YOUR TEEN-AGE CURIOSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS! A GLANCE THROUGH THIS PERISCOPE SHOULD SATISFY THAT...

AND, BELOW...

SUFFERIN' SUBS! Y-YOU CAN'T... SINK THAT!

OH...? CAN'T I...?

HOOT!  
HOOT!

A MOST ASTUTE QUERY FROM THE BOY WONDER... AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE! HOW CAN THE SCHEMER SINK... A JET-CARGO PLANE?...  
R1047

HA! THOSE WOULD-BE GENIUSES HOPE TO OUTSMART THE SCHEMER BY DRIVING THE GOLD-TRUCK DIRECTLY INTO THE AIR-TRANSPORT... WITH AN UNBREAKABLE ARMED RING AROUND IT! HA! HA!

THE SCHEMER THROWS A SWITCH... A SILO HATCH-COVER OPENS AND...

BUT ONCE IT TAKES OFF, I KNOCK IT DOWN WITH MY MINI-POLARIS TYPE MISSILE! SALVAGING THE TREASURE UNDERWATER WITH THIS SUB... WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY!

I'D SAY IT'S RATHER CLEVER! THERE'S NOT A CHANCE YOU CAN...

THE SCHEMER LEAVES NOTHING TO CHANCE! SURE-- THE GOLD SHIPMENT IS INVULNERABLE ON THE GROUND...

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

YOUR PLAN IS VICIOUS... BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

AND WHO'S TO STOP ME... BATMAN? WITH HIS PRECIOUS TEEN-TODDLER IN MY TENDER CLUTCHES? HA! HA!

HOO-HOOT!

I FEAR... THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SIR... I'D MUCH PREFER BEING WITH THOSE DUCK "NIMRODS" BELOW!

OF COURSE... I'D MUCH PREFER-- GROUSE!

WHILE... APPROACHING GOTHAM AIRPORT...

HOW ARE WE GOING TO COPE WITH THIS SITUATION, MASTER BRUCE?

FIRST, ALFRED... WE'RE GOING TO CASE THE AIRFIELD GOLD-LOADING AREA! SEE IF WE CAN SPOT WHERE THE SCHEMER MIGHT MASS HIS FORCES FOR AN ATTACK!

I'D MUCH PREFER LESS... OF YOUR GROUSING, ALFRED! WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR WITS ABOUT US RIGHT NOW...

BUT THEIR OVER-FLIGHT OF THE SENSITIVE AREA IS GREETED WITH AN ALERT WARNING... I SAY, SIR... THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT... HOLES IN OUR WITS!

BULLY FOR THEM... ALFRED... THEY'RE ON THEIR TOES! LEAST NOW... WE CAN BE SURE THE SCHEMER WON'T TRY A COPTER ASSAULT!

POW!

POW!

POW-POW!



AND THAT "RING OF STEEL" AROUND THE CARGO PLANE WILL PREVENT A GROUND ATTACK... TILL SHE'S SAFELY OFF AND AWAY! WHAT OTHER WAY CAN THE SCHEMER HIT THEM?

I-I CAN'T GUESS, SIR! WE'RE HAVING AS MUCH LUCK AS THOSE HUNTERS BELOW, IN FINDING FLYING DUCKS!



WHILE IN THE INNOCENT-LOOKING SHELTER BELOW... THE "SHOTGUN" PERISCOPE TRAVERSES, AND...

LOADING COMPLETED! PLANE ABOUT TO TAXI FOR TAKE-OFF... **BATTLE STATIONS!**



WHAT DID YOU SAY, ALFRED--?

I-I SAY, SIR... WHAT DID I JUST SAY?



OH, I HAVE IT, SIR! AS MUCH LUCK AS THOSE HUNTERS BELOW... FINDING-- AH, THAT'S IT-- FLYING DUCKS!



AND... AND WHEN DID THE HUNTING SEASON OPEN AROUND GOTHAM CITY, ALFRED?

WHY, SIR-- IT HASN'T AS YET! IN FACT...



IN FACT, IT **STARTS NEXT MONTH!** WHICH MEANS... EITHER THOSE JOKERS BACK THERE ARE **POACHERS**, OR...

... THAT "DUCK BLIND" IS A BLIND FOR SOMETHING ELSE! AND IF I DIG THE SCHEMER'S TWISTED SENSE OF HUMOR...

... IT COULD BE A COVER FOR OPERATION-BLINDFOLD'S HIDE-OUT!

I SAY! A BLIND FOR A BLIND FOLD... OF FOUL FOWL!





KEEP'ER HOVERING, ALFRED!... IF I YANK ONCE, PULL ME UP REAL QUICK! IF TWICE... TAKE OFF WITHOUT ME... AND KEEP GOING!

RATHER NASTY ALTERNATIVE, SIR! H-HOPE THOSE "DECOYS" AREN'T LURING THE WRONG BIRD!

WHILE BELOW BATMAN'S GROPING FEET...



GOLD-PLANE LINING UP ON RUNWAY FOR TAKE-OFF! SONAR-MAN, SWITCH ON OUR SUPER-SENSITIVE SONIC-DETECTOR...

WE'LL USE THE SOUND OF ITS ENGINES TO GUIDE OUR MINI-POLARIS TO ITS TARGET WHEN SHE'S AIRBORNE!

BUT, NO SOONER IS THE ULTRA-SENSITIVE DETECTOR SWITCHED ON, THAN...



AITCH! 'C-COPTER ... DIRECTLY OVERHEAD ... HOVERING!!

W-WHA...? COULD ONLY BE...

NO TIME TO COPE WITH BATMAN NOW... BUT WE CAN PREVENT HIS INTERFERING...

TAKE ROBIN AND...

WHILE ABOVE, THE CAPED CRUSADER LANDS ON CAT'S-FEET... SILENTLY!

...BATMAN'S BATCOPTER! HIS PRESENCE HERE COULD DISRUPT OUR PLAN!

A... CONNING TOWER! SO THAT'S HIS HIDE-OUT! AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE!



HOW CAN I GET TO HIM? LOCKED FROM INSIDE...

?EH? SUB... SURFACING! IF THEY SPOT MY 'COPTER OVERHEAD...



IS BATMAN GOING TO GIVE THE FATAL SIGNAL... THAT WILL LEAVE HIM ALONE ON THE SUB?



TWO... YANKS! WHICH IS MORE THAN ONE BRITISHER... CAN STAND! OH, MASTER BRUCE... MUST I LEAVE YOU?

AS ALFRED RELUCTANTLY REELS IN THE BAT-CABLE... THE SUB SURFACES!

OH, POOR MASTER... TRAPPED ON THAT UGLY SEA MONSTER!

FOR PETE'S SAKE, ALFRED-- GET GOING-- OR YOU'LL BE SHOT DOWN!

AND AS ALFRED, IN DESPAIR, STARTS TO SLOWLY WITHDRAW FROM THE SCENE...

OPEN HELIPAD HATCH! RAISE ELEVATOR...

NOW HEAR THIS... BATMAN... HEAR THIS! IF YOU MAKE ONE MOVE IN OUR DIRECTION...

AS THE HELIPAD ELEVATOR COMES INTO VIEW...

...WE'LL SUBMERGE! NEEDLESS TO SAY... YOUR JUNIOR CRIME-FIGHTER'S DAYS WILL BE OVER-- AND UNDER!

HE THINKS I'M ABOARD THE BATCOPTER... WHICH COULD GIVE ME AN ADVANTAGE! BUT HOW DO I MOVE AGAINST HIM WITH ROBIN SO VULNERABLE FOR REPRISAL?

AND AS THE GOLD-CARRIER  
STARTS DOWN THE RUNWAY...

SONIC-DETECTOR  
REVEALS TAKE-OFF,  
SCHEMER!

PREPARE  
MISSILE FOR  
FIRING!  
MUST HIT  
PLANE WHEN  
WELL OVER  
BAY!

THAT PLANE'LL BE A  
SITTING DUCK... WITH  
MORE LIVES AT STAKE  
THAN JUST ROBIN'S!

HMM! THAT  
SHOT-GUN  
MAY BE THE  
ANSWER!

SLAP

GOTTA MOVE  
NOW!

THE  
SCHEMER CUED  
ME IN WITH  
THAT-- "OVER  
AND UNDER"!

IF YOU LOST THE CLUE... OR  
CUE... READER, SEE LAST  
PANEL OF PREVIOUS PAGE!

AS THE PLANE TAKES OFF, AND THE SCHEMER STARTS HIS  
COUNT-DOWN... BATMAN SPRINGS INTO ACTION...

...EIGHT... SEVEN  
... SIX...

WHOO-  
HOOT!

SHALL I SAY  
FIRE?

BATMAN...!?  
GET 'IM...  
BRAIN-DRAIN!

I CAN STILL FIRE  
THE MISSILE FROM  
UNDERWATER!

BIAW

AS THE OUTLANDISH OWL COMES AT HIM, TALONS AND BEAK GLEAMING WITH AVID ANTICIPATION...  
BATMAN, CAUGHT OFF BALANCE, FIRES BOTH BARRELS... HARMLESSLY INTO THE SKY!

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING

19



DESPERATELY TRYING TO HANG ON, THE CAPED CRUSADER FENDS OFF-- WITH HIS FREE HAND-- THE PERSISTENT NIGHT-HUNTER, TRYING TO GET AT HIS EYES...

BLASTED BIRD... I CAN'T LET SCHEMER SUBMERGE OR ROBIN IS DEAD!



SUDDENLY... FROM OUT OF NOWHERE... ASSISTANCE COMES!



A BATCABLE BULL'S-EYE! OR RATHER I SHOULD SAY... OWL'S-EYE! FINE GROUSE-HUNT THIS TURNED OUT TO BE!

GOOD OLD ALFRED! ALWAYS IN THE NICK... THE PERFECT BUTLER!



BUT THAT SHORT "NICK OF TIME" COULD BE FATAL, AS...



THAT HATCH-COVER MUSTN'T SHUT, OR...

SNATCHING THE SHOTGUN OUT OF ITS SWIVEL-MOUNT...

I'M NOT GETTING SHUT OUT OF THIS GAME, SCHEMER! THERE'S ANOTHER TURN AT BAT... AND IT'S GOING TO BE BATMAN'S!

OW-W!



WITH A MIGHTY PULL, THE MASKED MANHUNTER BRINGS A GASPING SCHEMER OUT OF HIS HAVEN, LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER...

YOU'RE TOO BIG TO THROW BACK, SO...

...I'LL HAVE TO PREPARE YOU FOR-- THE FRYING PAN!

HURRY, ALFRED! THOSE AREN'T JUST CABIN-BOYS BRINGING OUR FISH-N'-CHIPS!

HAVE YOU OUT OF THESE NASTY CLAMPS IN A SECOND, YOUNG ROBIN!

PUTTING THE BATCOPTER ON AUTOMATIC PILOT, ALFRED ASSAYS A RESCUE OF THE PINIONED ROBIN, AS OUT OF A DECK-HATCH...

USING THE MISSILE ON ITS SWIVEL-MOUNT AS A GIANT MERRY-GO-ROUND, THE TEEN TITAN TEARS INTO THE TEETERING THREATS!

TIME FOR A CLEAN SWEEP... YOU DECK SWABS!



WHILE ATOP THE CONNING TOWER, THE CAPED CRUSADER CUTS A WIDE SWATH IN A WALL OF MENACING FLESH, USING A LIVING MAN-BAT!

THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD, SCHEMER... FOR A GOOD PURPOSE! AND NEXT TIME 'ROUND... YOU BETTER SETTLE FOR THE BRASS RING, 'CAUSE--

TCHOK!

KLUK!

PLATZ!

... THE GOLD WENT THATAWAY!

LATER... AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

LOOKS LIKE THE SCHEMER SCHEMED HIMSELF INTO JAIL EH, BATMAN... ROBIN?

WITH A SLIGHT ASSIST FROM A PAIR OF "IMPOSTORS" COMMISSIONER GORDON?

DON'T RUB IT IN... PLEASE? I MUST ADMIT THE MURDERED "BLIND-MAN" PLANT THREW ME!

FUNNY, YOUNG MASTER ROBIN... HOW EVEN THOUGH NASTY BLIGHTERS ALWAYS GET IT IN THE END-- THEY DON'T GET IT! THE LOOT... THE SWAG... GET IT? THE JOKE... THAT IS? HAW!

HAW... YOURSELF, ALFRED!



**PALISADES**  
AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE

LOOK FOR THIS COUPON IN ALL  
MAY THROUGH OCTOBER ISSUES



ADMIT ONE (1) to  
**PALISADES**  
AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY  
and FRIDAYS  
(EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)  
Until 7 P.M.

**FREE**  
ADMISSION

PARKING

WORTH **85¢**

~ FREE RIDE ~  
**SUPERMAN**  
GIANT COASTER

~ FREE RIDE ~  
**CATERPILLAR**



# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

For once, instead of giving a detailed analysis of a comic, I'd like to give my first impressions of it. These impressions are received the very first time one peruses an issue.

Naturally, the cover is the *very* first thing that hits a person, and the cover of *Batman* #201 intrigued me. It definitely was *not* done by Carmine Infantino, but I did not dwell on it. Eagerly, I opened the magazine to discover just why *Gotham City* policemen were gunning for *Batman*. About fifteen minutes later, I put it down and felt three different things, all at the same time: enjoyment, satisfaction, expectation.

*Enjoyment* because the issue was fun; all through "Batman's Gangland Guardians" was plenty of *Bat*-action featuring some mob trying to wipe out our *Caped Crusader*—while seven of his cleverest foes try to prevent it—and succeeding. And, best of all, not once through the entire tale did *Batman* suspect just who it was helping him.

Now to my second impressionistic feeling: *satisfaction*. I was glad that the story hadn't turned into the cliché proposed by the cover—that of *Batman* momentarily being a criminal and having a short fight for his life against the forces he's always worked hand-in-hand with. Also *satisfaction* because *Batman* didn't, as I expected, crash into the hideaway of the *Gangland Guardians* on the last page of the story.

And this is where *expectation* comes in, for *Batman* now has a grand total of eight foes to match wits with in issues to come—and any one of these eight have been enough in the past to keep *Batman* busy for at least half an issue.

Ah, yes—there is one other impression I received when I first read this issue. In the lettercol we fans were challenged to spot this issue's cover artist, and as soon as I took another look at the cover one name popped into my head—Joe Giella. The more I thought about it, the more it seemed to fit: it looked like Giella all the way—pencils and inks. (And since I saw mentioned in a fanzine that Joe Giella will be doing future work on *Batman*, how could I possibly be wrong?)

—Jim Vlcko, Scarborough, Ont., Can.

(How you could possibly be *so* wrong is obligingly revealed by another cover-artist-spotter—who used *Batman*-technique to solve the problem. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I believe I have solved the guess-the-artist-puzzle for the cover of *Batman* #201 — thanks to a neat bit of deduction! On the cover of *Detective Comics* #374 there appears a newspaper in the background. The headline is barely readable, but the letters form the name *Irving Novick*. Place the covers of *Detective* #374 and *Batman* #201 next to each other and you will find that the figures of *Batman* are nearly identical! I'll place my bet on Novick as the mystery artist of *Batman* #201!

—Mark Dillman, Topeka, Kans.

(You win a *check*-mark, Mark, for correctly identifying the cover-artist—but a *wrong*-mark goes to another Mark on the story's writer. —Editor)

Dear Editor:

I'm going to guess that the story in *Batman* #201 was written by Mike Friedrich. If we begin with the so-obviously-drawn-by-Irv-Novick-cover, we see a trite, over-used idea—the hero wanted by the police.

Now, if Gardner Fox has been assigned to write a story around that cover, he would've made it some fantastic trick on *Batman's* part. John Broome would've done the exact same thing as Fox. (Broome always does—I think those guys are Siamese twins!) Bill Finger stories are obvious 'cause he always puts some kind of giant object in them. (Pick up any pre-new look-*Batman*; chances are that some crook's robbing an exhibit where there are giant toys, clocks, musical instruments, etc.)

As the plot went, the writer took a trite cover and turned it into a trite plot with enough novel twists to make it the *best* *Batman* story in over three issues. (High praise, indeed!)

—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

(Sorry, story-wise it was Gardner Fox all the way. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

May I compliment you on a superb job in issue 201 of *Batman*. I've been waiting a long time to see a number of *Batman's* foes team up against him. But instead of being against him they were in the story to help him. Yes, the story line of "Batman's Gangland Guardians" intrigued me very much. I haven't enjoyed a *Batman* yarn as much since issue 180, with its outstanding "Death Knocks Three Times."

—David Combs, Burbank, Cal.

(From "superb" to "unbelievable"—that's the range of ratings on #201's story—as we graciously allow a famous femmefan to have the last word. —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Of all the unbelievable stories you have ever published, "Batman's Gangland Guardians" takes the cake! While I can swallow, with few doubts, the idea that *seven* of *Batman's* toughest, wildest foes would gather together and work to save his life (of all the implausible things!), I find it *impossible* to believe that they could refrain from attempting a series of double-crosses. It is *absurd*; for years I've been reading about these villains and their congenital inability to "go straight". Why should the opportunity to save *Batman's* life preoccupy *all* of them to such an extent that none of them behaves as if they really *are* criminals they profess to be? These are *complex* people, all with a demonstrated ability to say one thing and do another. Being involved in honest work for a change isn't going to change *them* — certainly not all *seven* of them! Bring true to character traits means *more* than just a series of one-line speeches consisting of terrible puns that not even *Robin* would use!

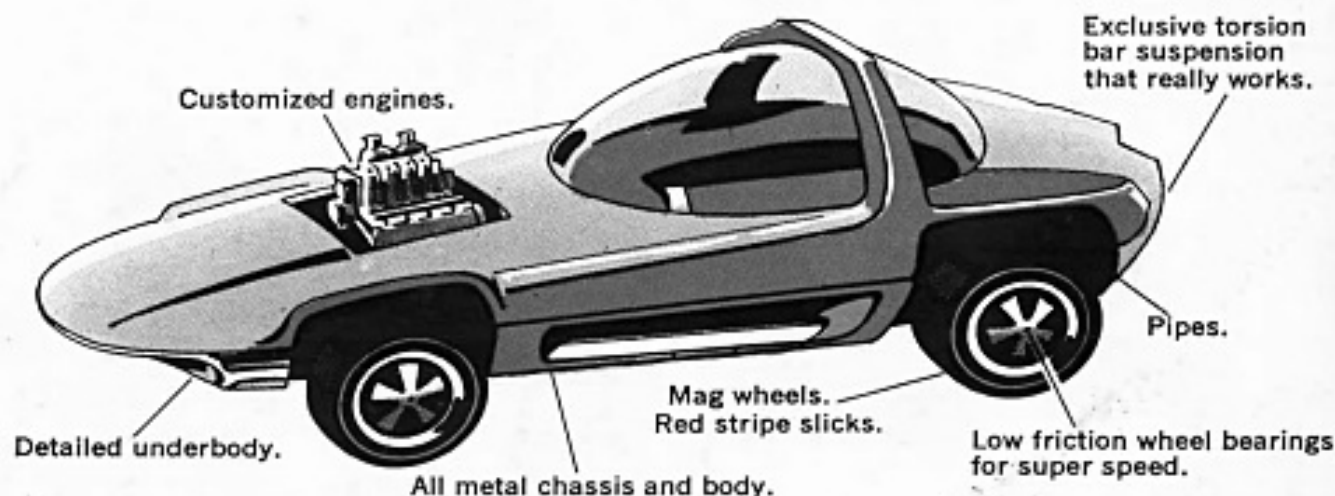
—Irene Vartanoff, Lake Forest, Ill.

\*\*\*\*\*

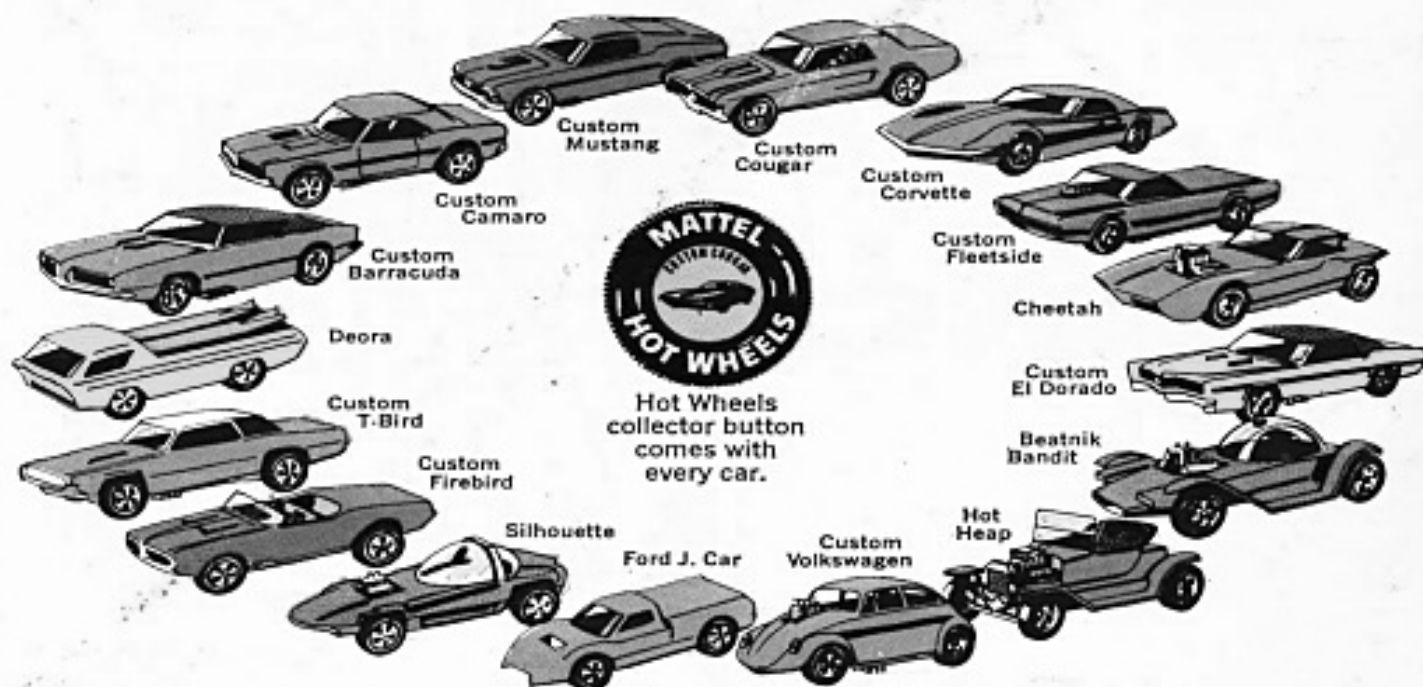
Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.



**New from Mattel. The fastest miniature cars you've ever seen. And look at these features!**



**Choose from 16 new California custom styled Hot Wheels!**



**Get new Hot Wheels in action sets, too! With up to 30 feet of special track and accessories, so you can race 'em, or stunt 'em!**